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EDITORIAL NOTES.

In this number of the JOURNAL appears a brief outline of the work in pathology at the University of California. Decided changes in instruction have been inaugurated since Professor Gay took charge, and the efforts of himself and his associates will, without doubt, yield striking results. The study of disease from both the pathologic and bacteriologic standpoints at the same time will not only economize the student's efforts but impress upon him the great practical value of these preliminary subjects. Dr. Gay's work in immunology has given him an international reputation, and it is pleasing to find that he will continue his investigations along these lines at Berkeley. It is only through such channels that we can hope to develop an accurate therapy and the work of such men as Ehrlich and Gay will no doubt in future time be regarded as the very foundation of a subject which will then be considered the most important branch of medical study.

A few cranks, with a lot of spare time and misdirected energy, and a little money, can stir up an awful lot of trouble in this most curious of all worlds. There are always a lot of people with spare time and unexercised emotions waiting around for some other similarly situated person to cry clamorously that something is wrong or is dreadful and should be stopped. Then a whole lot

of people hear the uproar, do not know what it is all about, get somewhat hysterical, and then you have a perfectly good "movement" well established and ready for troublesome business. So it is with the antivivisectionist. Ninety per cent. of them do not know what they are talking about; the other ten per cent. are talking honestly but their talk is based on erroneous premises. New York *Life* is one of the hysterical ones; why it is so strong for antivivisection, as they call it, is probably a secret locked in the unthinking mind of the managing editor. Be the reason what it may, *Life* has published a lot of fool pictures and cartoons distorting to the point of libel, the work of animal experimentation. All the thousands of lives that have been saved through animal experimentation are forgotten when it is remembered by *Life* that a few dogs and cats and monkeys have been killed. *Puck*, more rational, more thoughtful for public welfare and more sane has printed two full-page cartoons showing, in most graphic manner, the salvation to the sick or crippled child that may come through the sacrifice of a dog or two. Scientists are not monsters; they are demons for work and they seldom or never think of their own personal reward; a few dogs against a few thousand human lives do not appeal to them; *Puck* should be endorsed and encouraged in every way.

Dr. Rupert Blue, who, for so long a time has been giving most efficient service in squirrel eradication, is fast reaping the benefits of the general campaign **SQUIRREL ERADICATION.** which he began last fall toward enforcing the law of March 13, 1909, entitled "An Act for the Extermination of Rodents." The public has been thoroughly informed through the press of the State that this act would be strictly enforced, and within the past month five Boards of Supervisors in different counties have appropriated money to pay for local inspectors, printing and the other expenses which will be accrued in putting this law into effect.

It is Dr. Blue's plan to send a number of trained inspectors from the Marine Hospital Service to these various county seats in order to drill the local men for this work. The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, Madera, Kings, Tulare and Fresno, have already voted sufficient money for this purpose, and the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo will probably soon come into line.

The medical profession certainly owes a great debt to the Supervisors of the several counties that have so gladly given their aid to this great cause. Dr. Blue reports that the money was voted almost without a dissenting voice after the object and purpose of this work was explained by him. In four days he obtained affirmative votes from five Boards of Supervisors. Resolutions have been adopted by these Boards showing the great necessity both from the economic and sanitary standpoint of this campaign and not only defraying local expenses but asking for Federal aid in sending experienced men.

R. R.